

REMARKS

The abstract and specification have been objected to, and have been appropriately amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-84 are pending. Claims 1-84 have been rejected. Claims 1, 51, and 68 have been objected to. Claims 1, 51, and 68 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 51, and 68 have been objected to because of the use of parentheses and quotation marks. The claims have been appropriately amended to remove the parentheses and quotation marks. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been rejected under U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 11 of co-pending Application No. 10/646,645. Claim 1 has been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 51 and 68 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 21 and 1, respectively, of co-pending Application No. 10/646,645. Claims 51 and 68 have been amended. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 51 and 68 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18, 33-59, 62-76, and 79-84 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by D'Andrea & Janus ("UniSQL's Next-Generation Object-Relational Database Management System"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18, 33-59, 62-76, and 79-84 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The claims are directed to manipulating units of information, referred to as Items, that are interconnected by Relationships. Independent claims 1, 51, and 68 have been amended to include the features of each Item having a boundary comprising an item type, applicable subtype information, complex type properties and extensions if any, and a list of the other Items owned by the Item (see application, as originally filed, at paragraph [0101], for example).

D'Andrea describes four object extensions to SQL along with a directed acyclic graph data model (page 71, last paragraph). The objects in D'Andrea are defined in terms of other

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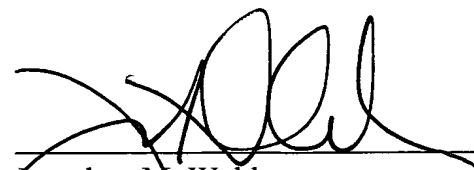
objects, and attributes are provided to describe the objects (page 72, second paragraph). However, there is no teaching or suggestion of boundaries for the objects, as claimed.

Claims 2-18 and 33-50 are dependent from claim 1, claims 52-59 and 62-67 are dependent from claim 51, and claims 69-76 and 79-84 are dependent from claim 68, and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-18, 33-59, 62-76, and 79-84 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 19-32, 60, 61, 77, and 78 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over D'Andrea in view of Barker ("Beginning Java Objects"). Claims 19-32 are dependent from claim 1, claims 60 and 61 are dependent from claim 51, and claims 77 and 78 are dependent from claim 68, and are therefore patentable for the reasons set forth above. Barker fails to cure the deficiencies of D'Andrea. Barker describes software objects, object modeling, and Java applications, but does not disclose or suggest boundaries for the objects, as claimed. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 19-32, 60, 61, 77, and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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